

Kentucky Permanency Roundtables

Partnership with Casey Family Programs

Presentation developed in partnership with:

Barry Salovitz, MSW, Senior Director, Strategic Consulting, Casey Family Programs

Sue Hoag-Badeau, Director, Knowledge Management, Casey Family Programs.

Kelly S. Wiley, Esq. , Office of General Council

Tina Hagenbuch, MSSW, KY Roundtable Project Administrator

Teresa C. James, LCSW, Deputy Commissioner

Kentucky Department for Community Based Services

Who Wouldn't Want a Family?



Learning Objectives for This Session



- **Permanence**
 - Gain better understanding of the benefits of permanence
 - Identify specific skills and behaviors related to permanence that can be implemented in practice.
 - Develop knowledge of the KY Permanency Roundtable process, and identification of the vital role of community partners in achieving permanency goals for Kentucky's children.

Permanence: What is it? A Professional Perspective

“The highest level of physical, legal and emotional safety and security that can be attained for each individual child or youth within the context of a family relationship.”

Lauren Frey & 1st Stuart
Permanency Convening



Permanency: A Youth Perspective

They're always talking about this Permanency stuff. You know social workers. . .lawyers . . . always using these big social work terms to talk about simple things. One day one of them finally described what she meant by permanency. After I listened to her description, which was the first time anyone ever told me what the term meant, I said, "Oh, that's what you mean? Yeah, I want permanency in my life. I don't think I ever had that! When can I get it?"

Youth in care



WHAT is Permanence?

A Youth Perspective

- PERMANENCE is **NOT** a place
- Permanency is a state of mind, *not a placement*;
- Permanence is having the feeling that you are *connected*,
- That there is someone *in the middle of the night* who will answer your *collect* phone call,
- Or *miss you* when you don't show up.



Permanence: What is it?

My working definition



- A parent or two – A parenting relationship with at least one adult
- Intent – a mutual understanding that this relationship is intended to last forever
- Unconditional commitment by the adult(s)
- Participation of all parties in the relationship
- Lifelong and mutual support and involvement
- Intimacy & Belonging – “My son”, “my mom”
- Status How the world views your relationships

Genuine Permanence:

3 Tests

- The “Miss-me-when-I-don’t-show-up” Test
- The “Age 34” Test
- The “Hospital” Test

Permanence is

- **PERMANENCE IS FOR NOW** - What does permanence mean for young people preparing to leave care?
- **PERMANENCE IS FOR THE FUTURE**: What might it mean in 5,10 or 20 years?
- **PERMANENCE IS FOR ALL YOUTH**: Including those who will need adult residential care, or with a permanency plan of Emancipation
- **PERMANENCE CAN BE CREATED**:

STORIES-





If we understand the importance of permanence – why
can't we achieve it for all of our children and youth?

“FAMILIES ARE NOWHERE”

HOW - Do we help move children, youth and families towards permanence?

- Get “P.O’ed” (Nancy Salyers) EVERYONE needs to be “Permanency Oriented”
- Think about how these messages get communicated
- Keep a sense of URGENCY
- Think about WHO to include
- Use team meetings as a tool in planning and decision making

I Always Thought I Was Adoptable

I always thought that I was adoptable even though I was 16 years old, but my social worker kept saying I was too old every time I asked him about it. I worked after-school at this hardware store and the guy who owned it was so kind to me. He was such a good guy and I always talked to him. I never really told him I was in foster care, but one day when we got to talking, he started to ask me a lot of questions about my family and then about life in foster care. I invited him to my case conference because my social worker said I could invite anyone who I wanted to, and at that point he asked about adoption. I was shocked at first, but it made sense. We finalized my adoption three months ago. That day was the happiest day of my life.

- *Former foster youth*



Summary of Key Points

- **No child should ever grow up in foster care** ~ Permanency is vital for healthy development and well-being in all children and youth.
- **Permanency is possible and achievable** for all Kentucky children and youth.
- **Meaningful, effective engagement** of the youth, parents, caregivers and other significant people **is the key to successful permanency** outcomes.
- **Using a team approach improves** engagement opportunities and permanency **outcomes**.
- **There are skills, strategies and specific casework behaviors** that, when consistently applied, can enhance practice and improve outcomes.

OVERVIEW OF THE KENTUCKY PERMANENCY ROUNDTABLE PROCESS Fall 2009

- In the summer of 2009 we began planning for the first KY Roundtables.
- DCBS identified, through the CFSR Performance Improvement Plan a need to focus on Permanency for children on OOHC 18-48 months with a goal of Return to Parent. We asked that staff choose nine of their most difficult cases meeting this criteria for a Roundtable review. case based upon criteria

OVERVIEW OF THE KENTUCKY PERMANENCY ROUNDTABLE

PROCESS Fall 2009 Cont.

- Beginning in September – November we met for 3 days together across the state with case workers, supervisors, clinical associates, administrative associates, OOHC specialist and Service Region Administrators to take a very in depth and structured look at each of their nine cases chosen for review.
- Upon completing the reviews within each region our staff would have in hand a very specific “Action Plan”. This would be developed with a focus on permanency and establishing/maintaining connections for each child.



The Permanency Roundtable goals:

- To develop a permanency plan for specific children that can be realistically implemented. To establish life long connections and/or supports for these children.
- To stimulate analytical thinking with our staff and develop/model clinical practice as we seek pathways to permanency for these children and other children.
- To identify and address barriers to permanency that might be changed through professional development, policy change, resource development, and the engagement of system partners.

Target Children and Families

- Based on TWIST reports in
 - July and August 2009

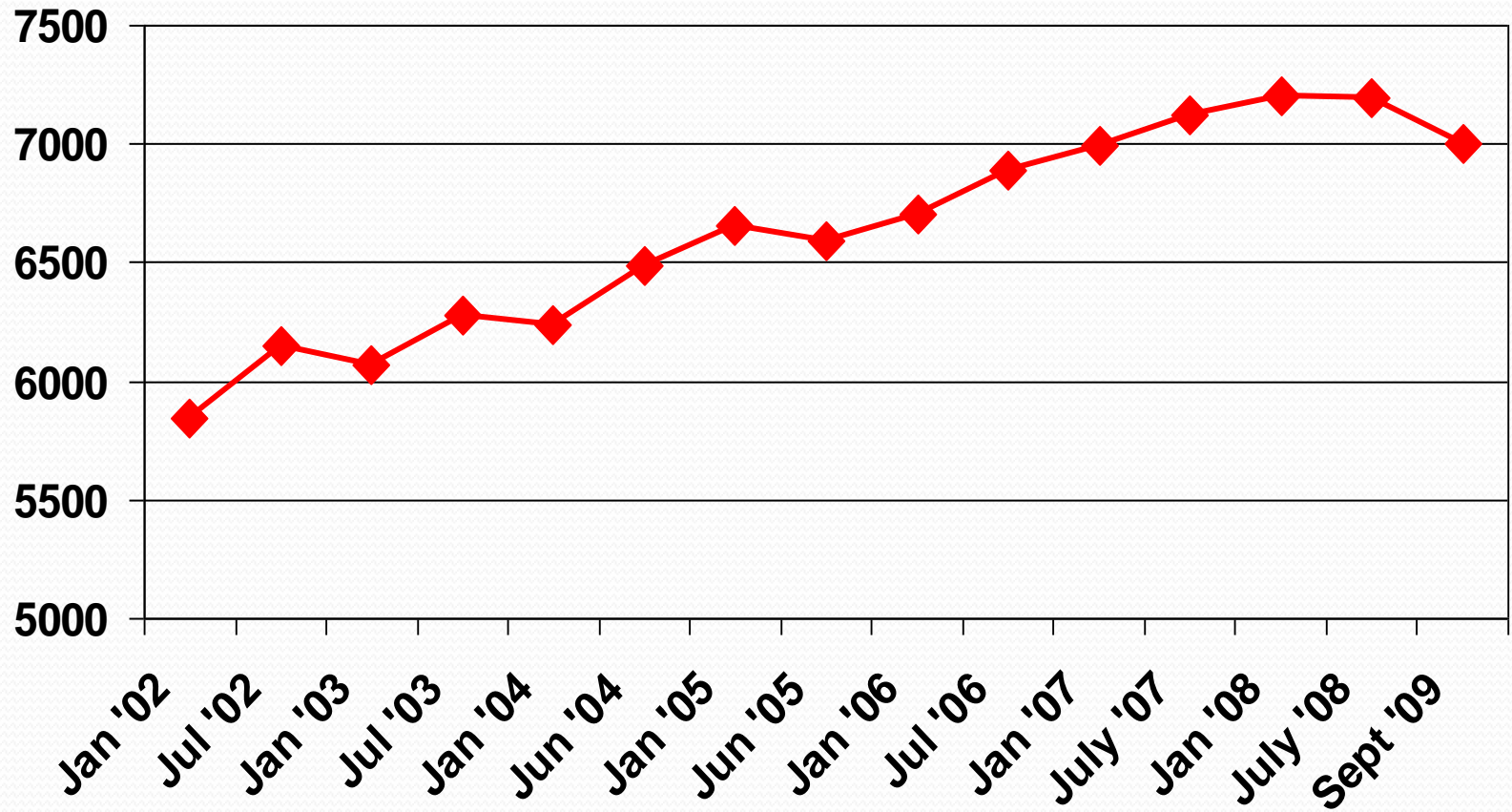
Who are the target children?

- About 640 children at any point in time.
 - In previous year, about 37.5% of these children exited OOHC to permanency or for some emancipation.
 - Median age that entered care is 8 years old.
 - Median age now are 11 years old.
 - Median average of 3-4 moves in care.
 - 40% were part of a sibling group also in the target group.
 - 42.8% had reentered care at least once.
 - > 50% were placed in PCC homes or residential.
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- Based on TWIST reports in July and August 2009

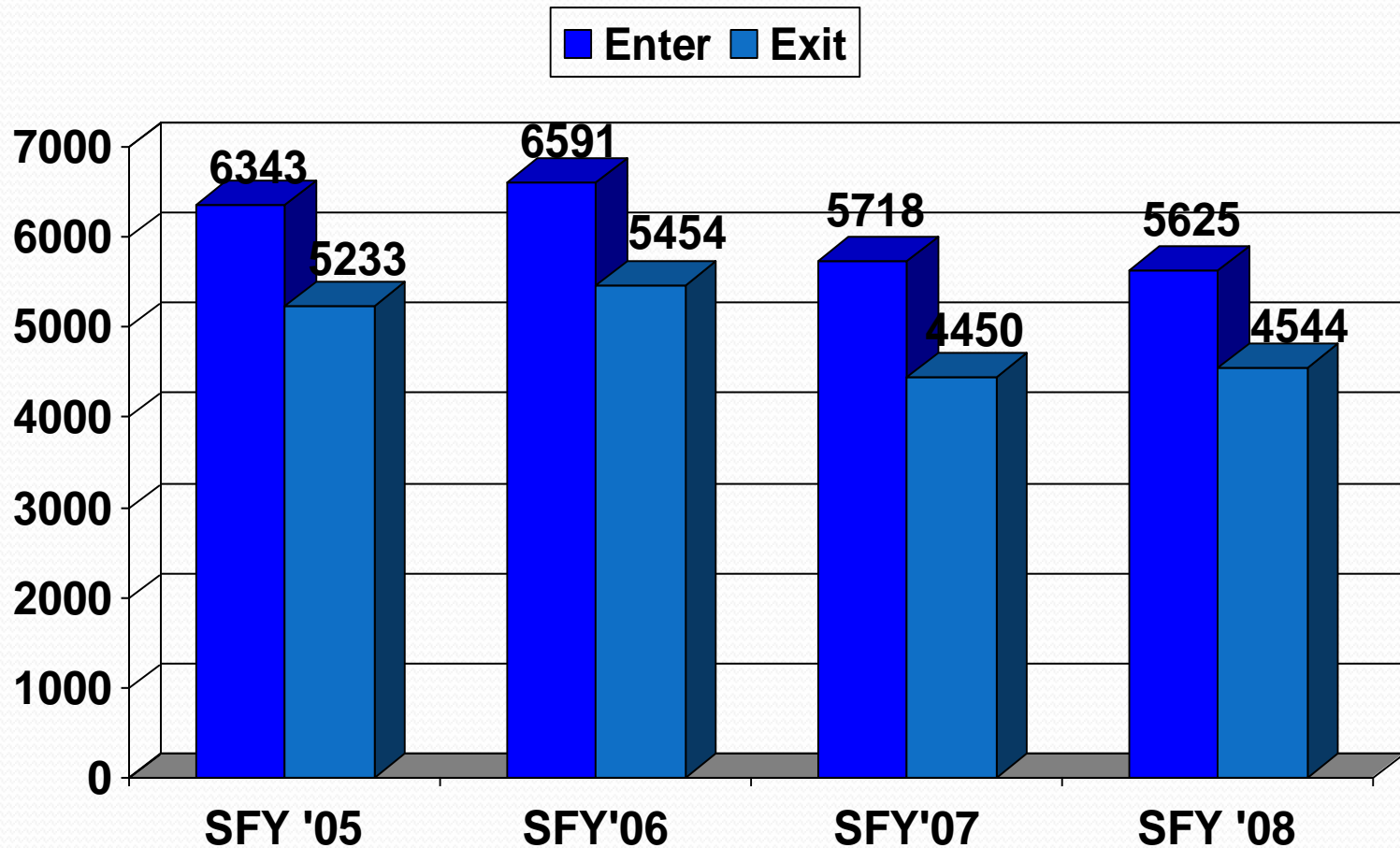
Target Children from Families with Chronic Abuse/Neglect

- On average had 2.3 substantiated referrals.
- For 137 children (21.3%), the first substantiated referral in the family was BEFORE they were born.
- 18% of families had another substantiated referral (adult or child) 60 days or longer AFTER the child's most recent entry to OOHC.
- Based on TWIST reports in July and August 2009

in OOHC (Increase 28% since Jan 02)



of Children Entering and Exiting OOHC

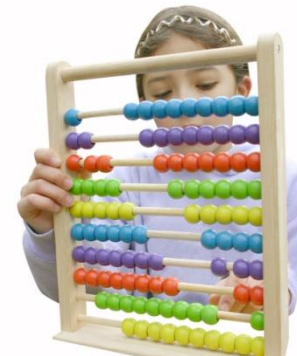


Why These Trends?

- Numbers in OOHC are increasing because fewer children are exiting.
 - These children have limited progress toward permanency in OOHC.
 - What to do?
 - Find ways to help children achieve permanency
- **Voila! - Casey Family Programs and the Kentucky Permanency Roundtables.**

5 KEY QUESTIONS

- What will it take?
- What can we try again that has been tried before?
- What can we do differently?
- What can we do concurrently?
- How can we engage the youth in devel
implementing the plan?



KENTUCKY ROUNDTABLE SUCCESSES

- KENTUCKY ROUNDTABLE SUCCESSES PHASE I
(81 cases 104 children)
 - Permanency Achieved - 34 children
 - New Connections - 112
 - New Services - 143
- KENTUCKY ROUNDTABLE SUCCESSES PHASE II
(81 cases 108 children)
 - Permanency Achieved - 14
 - New Connections - 28
 - New Services - 105

Kentucky Success Stories

- ❖ 10 yr old male; BD Teacher
- ❖ 16 year old male; Father & Siblings
- ❖ 3 siblings; Supportive Father/Aunt
- ❖ Adult Adoption

“KY STAFF COMMENTS”

- The roundtable is a non-threatening atmosphere
- Leave feeling very supported
- There is a share in responsibility/action plans
- A Barrier Busting opportunity; statewide & Region wide
- Very Child focused; A life long connections/supports perspective
- Thinking outside of the box
- Helps DCBS administration better understand the role of front line workers

With your help...

- Improve Partnerships
- Focusing together on outcomes
- Importance of Permanency
- Support connections
- Improve Practice